

PUB-NO: JP02005215905A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 2005215905 A
TITLE: IMAGE INPUT DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: August 11, 2005

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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APPL-NO: JP2004020570
APPL-DATE: January 28, 2004

INT-CL (IPC): G06T 1/00; G07D 7/00; B07C 3/14; H04N 7/18

ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To surely and rapidly detect an indicia for a nonstandard-sized mail.

SOLUTION: When a mail F passes through a proximity detection part 6, ultraviolet ray is radiated to the mail F at predetermined timing from a light irradiation part 9 of an image input unit 2. When the mail F is uniformly irradiated with ultraviolet ray, a phosphor formed in the indicia is excited to emit fluorescence. When the indicia is, for example, by a postal meter, red fluorescence is incident on a phosphor receiving optical system along a phosphor detection optical axis La when the indicia passes through a phosphor detecting visual field. When the indicia is, for example, a postage indicia (e.g., one adapted in US), and contains a phosphorescent material, green phosphorescence is incident on a phosphorescence receiving optical system along a phosphorescence detecting optical axis Lb when the indicia passes through a phosphorescence detecting visual field not irradiated with ultraviolet ray.

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